

File in Programs Dev.

17 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Director of Training
Deputy Director of Training (G)

FROM:

SUBJECT: Conference on THE PROBLEMS OF SOVIET IMPERIALISM
S. A. I. S., 10 - 14 August 1953

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference. It has been a stimulating and an extremely enlightening experience.

The conference was well organized administratively; the program planning was consistent, though I believe that it could be greatly improved another time. Mr. Haines and his staff are to be complimented upon doing a difficult job smoothly and effectively. The whole atmosphere was fine.

The star performers from my point of view were: T. Cuyler Young, for his realistic estimate of problems in the Near East; Harry Schwartz, for the content and quality of his presentation; Gerald F. Winfield, for his grass roots understanding of the problems of Southeast Asia; George Kennan, for the texture of his presentation; Cyril Black, for his analysis of diplomatic problems; Conway Zirkle, for a difficult estimate of Russian science; and Willis Armstrong, for his discussion of economic policies.

In general, there seemed to be an over-emphasis upon political and diplomatic history and a serious neglect of the much more difficult fields of sociological and economic foundations of current problems. I had a feeling that most of the speakers were leery of emphasizing economic forces for fear of being called Marxist. Religion was studiously avoided. The dominant state of mind of the conference seemed to be one that would be entirely congenial to "the Fordham bloc". I went to the conference seeking the equivalent of the experts' objective psychiatric analysis of desperately serious social ills; I was given preponderantly evangelical exhortations.

For a conference of this kind next year, I would suggest that only two lecture presentations be given each day, in the a.m., and that the afternoons be scheduled as three-hour seminars, with not more than twenty people in each group.

The Agency was represented by its less prominent people, (division, branch, and section chiefs, and trainees). This was excellent. I would heartily be in favor of more opportunities of this kind for the second, third, and fourth string members of the Agency team. This type of experience emphasizes the need for continuing education, as contrasted to training, for all members of the Agency. It is time, energy and money well invested.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☒

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cc. to

Mr.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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